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Viewing cable 06VATICAN91, HOLY SEE RESPONDS TO INDIAN CRITICISM OVER CONVERSION ISSUE

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#06VATICAN91**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
06VATICAN91	2006-05-31 08:38	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Vatican

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/the-india-cables/article1715617.ece>

VZCZCXRO2526
RR RUEHBI RUEHCI RUEHROV
DE RUEHROV #0091/01 1510838
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 310838Z MAY 06
FM AMEMBASSY VATICAN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0346
INFO RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 0010
RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI 0007
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL CALCUTTA 0007
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI 0005
RUEHROV/AMEMBASSY VATICAN 0374

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 VATICAN 000091

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 5/26/2016

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SUBJECT: HOLY SEE RESPONDS TO INDIAN CRITICISM OVER CONVERSION ISSUE

REF: (A) VATICAN 086, (B) NEW DELHI 3548 AND PREVIOUS, (C) VATICAN 087, (D) VATICAN 067

CLASSIFIED BY: Christopher Sandrolini, Charge d'affaires, EXEC, State. REASON: 1.4 (d)

[1](#)1. (C) Summary. Holy See contacts gave further background to Embassy Vatican on the recent controversy over remarks made by the pope criticizing

[2](#)2. (C) Following up on the controversy generated by Pope Benedict XVI's condemnation of anti-conversion laws in India (ref tels), we spoke to

[3](#)3. (C) Auza said the nuncio and Indian bishops have been speaking regularly to the GOI and state authorities about these issues. The May 23

[4](#)4. (U) In a document released on the official website of the Catholic Bishops Conference of India, Cardinal Dias made four points:

(a) religious conversion is "between God and the individual" and should not be constrained by laws or regulations that would abridge a right en

(b) Christians in India are only 2.3 percent of the total population, and of these 1.8 percent are Catholics; nevertheless Christians are resp

(c) a great many Indians of all faiths value and patronize these highly-regarded Catholic institutions, but are never asked to convert; thus af

(d) those attacking the Church now should reconsider their biased behavior.

[5](#)5. (SBU) We also spoke to Mons. Francis Chullikatt (ref C), a Kerala native heading off to become the papal nuncio in Baghdad. While primaril

COMMENT

VATICAN 00000091 002 OF 002

[6](#)6. (C) We note that the Indian controversy takes place against a backdrop of increasing concern in the Holy See with regard to religious freed

SANDROLINI ROONEY